

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan specifies a number of, and a spacing of, treatment seeds, said treatment seeds to be provided in a strand;

~~creating a treatment strand by~~ threading a material through a bore of each of
~~through the~~ specified number of treatment seeds;

positioning the number of treatment seeds at the specified spacing; and

heating to cause the material to expand and fix ~~fixing~~ the seeds at the specified
spacing. ~~at intervals on the material, wherein at least some of the intervals can be independently set~~
~~to a desired length.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

said accepting step includes accepting a treatment plan that specifies a plurality of radioactive seeds and an optimal spacing between adjacent seeds and around each of two end seeds; and

wherein said ~~creating~~ threading step includes creating strands to said spacings.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

said accepting step includes accepting a treatment plan created using an imaging device.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

said accepting step includes accepting a treatment plan created using a software program to specify intervals between adjacent seeds.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A prescription method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and a spacing pattern of a plurality of treatment seeds to be provided on a treatment strand, each of said treatment seeds having a bore therethrough;

~~creating the treatment strand by~~ threading a material through the bore of each of ~~through the treatment seeds, said creating step being carried out~~ with reference to, and according to, the number and the spacing pattern of the tissue treatment plan; and

crimping the threaded material near the ends of the treatment seeds ~~at intervals on the material~~, wherein said crimping step shapes the material to prevent ~~so that the material prevents~~ displacement of the treatment seeds along the treatment strand.

9. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 8 wherein the method further includes, after the crimping step, the step of heating the strand wherein the heating step causes the material to expand and further fix the treatment seeds in position on the strand.

10. (New) A prescription method for method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and a spacing pattern of a plurality of treatment seeds to be provided on a treatment strand, each of said treatment seeds having a bore therethrough;

placing the plurality of treatment seeds in a mold according to the number and the spacing pattern specified by the tissue treatment plan;

flowing a material into the mold so that the material fills the bores of the plurality of treatment seeds and the spacing around the plurality of treatment seeds; and

allowing the material to cool to fix the treatment seeds into position.

11. (New) The method as in claim 10 wherein the allowing step further comprises allowing the material to expand to fix the treatment seeds into position.